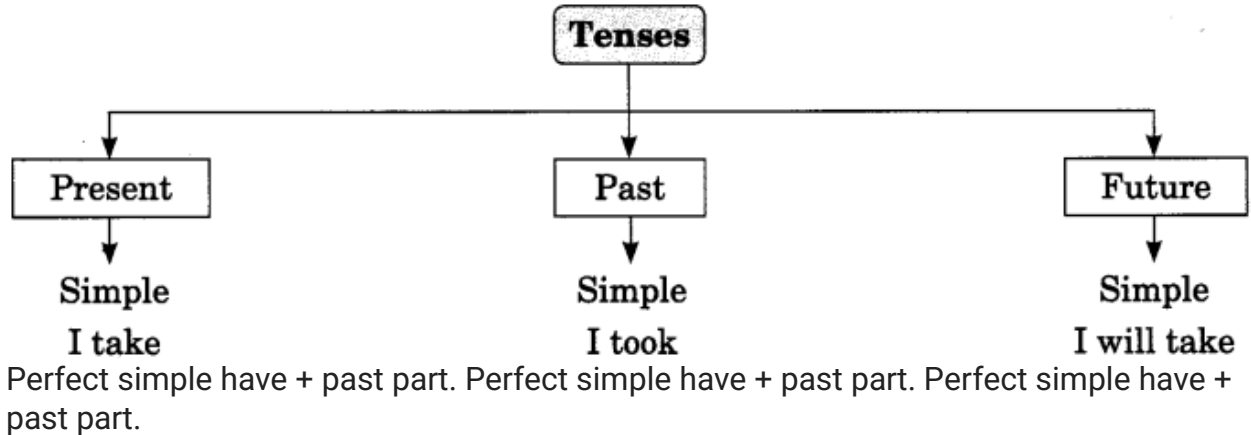


Tenses Exercises

From the tense of a sentence, we come to know about the time of an action.

The tense of a verb tells us when the action is, was or will be carried out



I have taken	I had taken	I will have taken
Continuous be + ing	Continuous be + ing	Continuous be + ing
I am taking	I was taking	I will be taking

Perfect continuous have + been Perfect continuous have + been Perfect continuous have + been

+ ing	+ ing	+ ing
-------	-------	-------

I have been taking	I had been taking	I will have been taking

Simple Present / Present Indefinite Tense:

(i) To describe repeated actions and habits; as,

(a) I go for a morning walk daily.

(b) Ishani reads the newspaper every day.

(ii) To express facts which are true of all times; as,

(a) The Sun rises in the East.

(b) This road leads to Jaipur.

(iii) To describe a future planned action; as,

(a) The president arrives tomorrow at 10.00 a.m.

(b) The train leaves to Karnataka at 9.00 p.m.

(iv) To express a fact of something which is true at present; as,

(a) All trains halt at Rampur.

(b) Priyanka teaches English in Hindu College Sonapat.

(v) To introduce quotations; as,

(a) Wordsworth says, "Nature heals our negative mood".

(b) Shakespeare says, "Frailty, thy name is a woman".

(vi) In running commentaries on matches; as,

(a) Kumble runs up to the wicket. He bowls.

The batsman steps forward and drives the ball to the boundary.

(vii) In time and conditional clauses; as,

(a) We will wait until Murti sings.

(b) If he works hard, he will succeed.

Form:

Affirmative	Negative

Subject + Infinitive (without to)	Subject + do/does not + infinitive
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Do/Does + subject + the infinitive +?	Do/Does + subject + not + infinitive +... ?

Present Continuous or Present progressive Tense is used:

(i) To describe an action that is happening now at the time of speaking.

(a) The boys are watching a cricket match.

(b) It is raining.

(ii) To describe an action going on over a period of time including the present, but which may not be going on actually at the moment of speaking.

(a) My father is writing a novel.

(b) I am learning to drive.

(iii) To describe an action or event which is to take place definitely in the near future.

(a) He is coming tomorrow.

(b) I am leaving by the next train.

(iv) To express the speaker's disapproval and disliking of an action that happens often.

(a) He is always complaining of headache.

(b) We are becoming lazy everyday.

(c) She is always back-biting.

(v) To express an action which begins before a specific time and even continuous after it; as,

(a) A 2.00 o'clock, we are having our lunch.

Form:

Affirmative	Negative

Subject + is/am/are + the present participle (i.e. the infinitive + ing)	Subject + is/am/are + not + the present participle (i.e. the infinitive + ing)
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Is/am/are + subject + the present participle +?	Is/am/are + subject + not + the present participle +?

Present Perfect Tense is used:

(i) To express an action that began in the past and continues up to the present moment; as,

- (a) I have finished my work.
- (b) Sita has already left the class.
- (c) He has gone to cinema.
- (d) I have known to him for several years.

(ii) To express past actions or events the results of which still persist; as,

- (a) He has lived here for two years.
- (b) Suresh has been ill since morning.
- (c) The prisoners have escaped from the jail.

(iii) To express past actions without any specific time; as,

- (a) Have you read "The Ramayana"?
- (b) My brother has been to Saudi Arabia.
- (c) I have never seen Reena angry.

(iv) To show past events when their effect in the present is more important; as,

- (a) Murli has cut his finger.
- (b) Children have eaten all the mangoes.
- (c) She has finished cooking.

(v) To express a recently completed action; as,

- (a) She has gone to college.
- (b) I have just finished my food.

- (vi) To describe a past action, the time of which is not given; as,
 (a) The poachers have hunted a tiger.
 (b) I have received a letter from my father.

Form:

Affirmative	Negative
Subject + has/have + the past participle	Subject + has/have + not + the past participle
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Has/have + subject + the past participle +?	Has/have + subject + not + the past participle +?

Present Perfect Continuous Tense is used:

- (i) To describe an action that began at some time in the past and is still going on. The action should be continuing at the time of speaking.

- (a) We have been studying English for five years.
 (b) It has been raining for three hours now.

- (ii) To emphasize the continued and uninterrupted nature of an action even though it is completed.

- (a) The children have been playing all the day.
 (b) He has been writing letters all the afternoon.

Form:

Affirmative	Negative

Subject + has/have + been + the present participle	Subject + has/have not + been + the present participle
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Has/have + subject + been + the present participle +?	Has/have + subject + not + been + the present participle +?

Simple Past Tense/Past Indefinite Tense is 'used:

(i) To describe an action that took place and was completed in the past; as,

- (a) He left for Bengaluru yesterday.
- (b) India defeated Pakistan during the Kargil war.
- (c) When did you build this house.

(ii) To express a past event/action when the time is not given, but it is implied and definite; as,

- (a) The flight was half an hour late.
- (b) I bought this shirt from the Mcdonald's.

(iii) To describe a habitual; or repeated action in the past; as

- (a) Everyday my father used to read a chapter of the Geeta.
- (b) Ram never smoked.
- (c) He attended the temple regularly when he was young.

(iv) To denote an action which continued for sometime in the past; as,

- (a) We studied Sanskrit for two years
- (b) We met twice a day during the summer holidays.

Form:

Affirmative	Negative

Subject + 1st form of verb	Subject + did not + 1st form of verb
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Did + subject + the infinitive +.....?	Did + subject + not + the infinitive +.....?

Past Continuous Tense is used:

(i) To describe an action that was in progress at a point of time or over a period of time in the past; e.g.

(a) I was having my breakfast at 8 o'clock yesterday.

(b) At 5 o'clock in the morning, I was completing my homework.

(ii) To show gradual development of a happening.

(a) It was getting dark.

(b) The boy was growing like a young plant.

(iii) To describe an action that was in progress when another action took place.

(a) I was reading the newspaper when the postman knocked at the door.

(The action in the Past Continuous 'was reading' started before the action in the Simple Past 'knocked' and probably continued after it.)

(b) She was sleeping when the phone rang.

(iv) To describe two actions going on at the same time in the past.

(a) While I was writing letters, she was listening to the radio.

(That means both the actions 'writing letters' and 'listening to the radio' continued side by side)

(b) We were bathing in the river when it was raining.

Form:

Affirmative	Negative

Subject + was/were + the present participle	Subject + was/were + not + the present participle
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
was/were + subject + the present participle +?	was/were + subject + not + the present participle + ?

Past Perfect Tense is used:

(i) To express an unfulfilled desires of the past, as,

(a) If only Ramesh had not spoiled his career. (but Ramesh spoiled)

(b) I wish I had listened to my parents teachings. (but I did not listen)

(ii) To express impossible conditions of the past; as,

(a) If we had left early, we would have caught the train.

(b) If you had worked hard, you would have passed.

(iii) To express an action in the past which was completed before another action took place in the past."

(Here two actions take place. The action that takes place earlier in time is reported in the Past Perfect Tense and the action that takes place afterwards (later in times is reported in the Past Indefinite Tense) e.g.

(a) We went to school after the rain had stopped.

(b) He had died before the war began.

(iv) To express an action completed before a certain moment in the past. e.g.

(a) At 9.00 p.m. all the shops had closed

(b) He had passed his graduation at the age of 16 years.

Form:

Affirmative	Negative

Subject + had + the past participle	Subject + had not + the past participle
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Had + subject + the past participle +.....?	Had + subject + not + the past participle +..... ?

Usage: Past Perfect Continuous Tense is Used:

(i) To express an action which had been going on for some time before another past action; e.g.

We had been reading for an hour when our teacher came.

He had been living in Delhi for a year when his father died.

(ii) To describe a repeated action in the Past Perfect; as,

Sita had tried many times to learn German language.

Sita had been trying to learn German language.

Affirmative	Negative
Subject + had been + verb (1st form) + ing +.....	Subject + had not been + verb (1st form) + ing +.....
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Had + subject + been + verb (ing form) +..... ?	Had + subject + not + been + verb (ing form) +..... ?

The Simple Future Tense is Used:

(i) To express an action that will take place in the future; e.g.

(a) I shall be sixty tomorrow.

(b) They will certainly wait for us.

(ii) For habitual actions which we assume will take place; e.g.

(a) Winter will come soon.

(b) The flood victims will build their houses.

(ii) With clauses of condition and time; e.g.

(a) The cup will break if I drop it.

(b) He will fail unless he works hard.

Affirmative	Negative
Subject + will/shall + the infinitive	Subject + will/shall + not + the infinitive
'shall' is used with first-person and 'will' with the 2nd and 3rd person.	
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Will/ Shall + subject + the infinitive +.....?	Will/Shall + subject + not + the infinitive +.....?

Future Continuous Tense is used:

(i) As an ordinary continuous Tense; e.g.

(a) Sidharath will be deciding the case next day.

(b) I shall be meeting the doctor tomorrow.

(c) Meera will be returning.

(ii) To express future without intention; e.g.

(a) Ranjan will be helping Sonam tomorrow.

- (b) I shall be waiting for my friends.
 (c) The gardener will be plucking the flowers.
 (d) I shall not be meeting him tomorrow.

(iii) To express an action that will be in progress at a given point of time in the future during a period of time in the future; e.g.

- (a) When I reach Mussorie, it will be raining there. (Point of time)
 (b) It will be snowing in Manali during October. (Period of time)

Affirmative	Negative
Subject + will/ shall + be + 1st form of verb + ing +.....	Subject + will/shall + not be + 1st form of verb + ing +.....
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Will/shall + subject + be + 1st form of verb + ing +.....?	Will/shall + subject + not be + 1st form of verb + ing +.....?

The Future Perfect Tense is used:

(i) To express an action which is expected to be completed by a certain time in the future; e.g.

- (a) The train will have left the station before you reach there.
 (b) By 2010, Delhi will have a lot of changes due to Olympics.

(ii) To express the speaker's belief that something has taken place; e.g.,
 You will have heard about my father's promotion.

Affirmative	Negative

Subject + will/ shall + have + the past participle +.....	Subject + will/ shall + not + have + the past participle +.....
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Shall/will + subject + have + the past participle +.....	Shall/will + subject + not + have + the past participle +.....

Future Perfect Continuous Tense is used:

- (i) To express an action continuing beyond some given time in future; e.g.
(a) By next June Neelu have been an I.T. experts in T.C.S.

Affirmative	Negative
Subject + will/ shall have been + 1st form of verb + ing +.....	Subject + will/ shall have + not + been + 1st form of verb + ing +.....
Interrogative	Interrogative-cum-Negative
Shall/will + subject + have been + present participle +.....?	Shall/will + subject + not + have been + present participle +.....?

Tenses Exercises Solved Examples

Question 1.

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate tense form.

- (i) When I opened my eyes, I. _____ a strange sight. (Saw / was seeing / have been)
- (ii) Every morning she _____ up early and gets ready for work is waking. (wakes/has woken)
- (iii) If I knew what he wanted, I _____ this. (will not permit / would not permit/would not have permitted)
- (iv) I _____ anything from her in a long time. (didn't hear / haven't heard / am not hearing)
- (v) The headmaster _____ to talk to you. (Want / wants / is wanting)
- (vi) Jane _____ with her parents. (is living / lives / has lived)
- (vii) We _____ Greece next month. (Visit / will visit / would visit / are visiting)
- (viii) The moon _____ around the earth. (is revolving/has revolved / revolves)
- (ix) She _____ a novel. (Wrote / writes / has written)
- (x) All students _____ in their work. (Handed / have handed / hand)
- (xi) I _____ English for twelve years. (am teaching / have been teaching / will be teaching)
- (xii) The students _____ their dialogues. (Rehearse / are rehearsing / Either could be used here)

Answer:

- (i) saw
- (ii) wakes
- (iii) would not permit
- (iv) haven't heard
- (v) wants
- (vi) lives
- (vii) are visiting
- (viii) revolves
- (ix) has written
- (x) have handed
- (xi) have been teaching
- (xii) are rehearsing

Question 2.

Fill the gaps with the correct tenses.

- (i) I (learn) _____ English for seven years now.
- (ii) But last year I (not / work) _____ hard enough for English, that's why my marks (not/be) _____ really that good then.
- (iii) As I (pass / want) _____ my English exam successfully next year, I (study) _____ harder this team.
- (iv) During my last summer holidays, my parents (send) _____ me on a language course to London.
- (v) It (be) _____ great and I (think) _____ I (learn) _____ a lot.
- (vi) Before I (go) _____ to London, I (not / enjoy). _____ learning English.
- (vii) But while I (do) _____ the language course, I (meet) _____ lots of young

people from all over the world.

(viii) There I (notice) _____ how important it (be). _____ to speak foreign languages nowadays.

(ix) Now I (have) _____ much more fun learning English than I (have) _____ before the course.

(x) At the moment I (revise). _____ English grammar.

Answer:

(i) I have been learning English for seven years now.

(ii) But last year I was not working hard enough for English, that's why my marks were not really that good then.

(iii) As I want to pass my English exam successfully next year, I am going to study harder this term.

(iv) During my last summer holidays, my parents sent me on a language course to London.

(v) It was great and I think I have learned a lot.

(vi) Before I went to London, I had not enjoyed learning English.

(vii) But while I was doing the language course, I met lots of young people from all over the world.

(viii) There I noticed how important it is to speak foreign languages nowadays.

(ix) Now I have much more fun learning English than I had before the course.

(x) At the moment I am revising English grammar.

Tenses Exercises Practiced Examples f

Question 1.

Fill the gaps with the correct tenses.

(i) And I (begin / already) _____ to read the texts in my English textbooks again.

(ii) I (think) _____ I (do) _____ one unit every week.

(iii) My exam (be) _____ on 15 May, so there (not/be) _____ any time to be lost.

(iv) If I (pass). _____ my exams successfully, I (start) _____ an apprenticeship in September.

(v) And after my apprenticeship, maybe I (go). _____ back to London to work there for a while.

(vi) As you (see / can) _____, I (become). La real London fan already.

(vii) They (leave): _____ the classroom by the end of the hour.

(viii) I think I (start) _____ my trip tomorrow.

Question 2.

Use present tense verbs to complete the following sentences.

(i) I sometimes _____ my bicycle to school.

(ii) Please _____ the door.

(iii) A blu-ray player _____ more than a DVD player.

(iv) The Chinese _____ green tea to black tea.

(v) The best olive oil _____ from Italy.

- (vi) This equipment, _____ on electricity.
- (vii) The old grandfather clock _____ every hour.
- (viii) Rabbits _____ in a large network of holes in the ground.